

Washington, DC -- On the 96th anniversary of Harriet Tubman's death in Auburn, New York, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that he has re-introduced legislation to honor Tubman's legacy by establishing a National Historical Park in Auburn, New York.

**"Harriet Tubman was a truly great America whose life work and sacrifice is a lesson to us all," Arcuri said**

. "Her final home in Auburn, and Auburn's place as a stop on the Underground Railroad, are a testament to the rich history of firsts and tolerance in Upstate New York, and a destination for scholars and families alike. This legislation gives Harriet Tubman, and the historic community of Auburn, the national recognition they deserve."

The Harriet Tubman National Historical Park and Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historic Park Act (H.R. 1078), would create two new units of the National Park System to honor the legacy of Harriet Tubman. One unit would be in Dorchester County, Maryland, where Tubman was born and escaped from slavery. The other unit would be in Auburn, New York where she settled in 1857 and where she later became active in the suffrage movement and also established one of the first incorporated homes for aged African Americans.

The park in Auburn will be focused around important historical structures including the home that Tubman purchased from former-Secretary of State William Seward, her Home for the Aged, the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church, and her gravesite in the Fort Hill Cemetery.

H.R.1078 authorizes \$7.5 million in matching grants for the preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of these properties in Auburn. Thematically linking several historical sites will help visitors better understand Harriet Tubman's important contribution to Upstate New York and the United States as a whole.

H.R. 1078 has 55 co-sponsors and companion legislation (S. 227) has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland. Earlier this week, Rep. Arcuri, along with Reps. Donna F. Edwards and Frank Kratovil, Jr., of Maryland, sent a letter to the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands requesting a hearing on H.R. 1078 at the Committee's earliest convenience.

Last Congress, Arcuri also introduced the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park and Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park Act (H.R. 6693).

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